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Name
Address
Town, State, Zip Code

Date

Mr. /Mrs. Name:

The Erie County Legislature, at our July 27, 2006 session, reviewed the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission. Those resolutions that were approved by the Legislature will go before the voters in a referendum on Election Day. It is important that every citizen of Erie County understand the result of the Commission's work, and I would like to help you do that.

Attached to this letter you will find a summary of the changes to our County Charter that may interest you and that you will have an opportunity to vote on. The commission's report and the local law regarding the report are available to you at my district office. I wanted to inform you of the changes, where I stood on the issues, and which ones you will have the opportunity to vote on and I think the attached few pages will help me do that.

If you have any questions or concerns about this or any issue facing county government, please feel free to write or visit me at 8860 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221, call my district office at 631-8695, or e-mail me at ranzenhofer@erie.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Ranzenhofer
Erie County Legislator
4th District

On July 13th 2006 Forty Four resolutions were submitted to the Erie County Legislator for my colleagues and I to vote on. All of these resolutions directly pertained to the Charter Review Commission's work, and more specifically, it determined what portions of their work you would have the opportunity to vote on in a public referendum. The changes involved are outlined below. You will have the opportunity to vote on all of the resolutions that passed.

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Short Summary of Resolution</i>	<i>Pass/Fail</i>	<i>How I Voted</i>
Intro. 13-4	Legislature accepts the recommendations of the CRC and amends the charter by referendum. Inconsistent with 13-45 decennial review	<i>Failed (6-9)</i>	No
Intro. 13-5	Stresses the need for the county to play a role in coordinating economic development planning and adds on Open Meetings Officer to the Legislature. All Charter changes become effective on January 1, 2007. The Charter be amended to reflect that there are 15 Legislative Districts.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-6	Require the Legislature to hold a public hearing five days before any vote on local laws and that acceptable public notice for the hearing be given on the county's website and through local media.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-7	Article II amended to include a smaller bipartisan advisory reapportionment commission.	<i>Failed (5-10)</i>	Yes
Intro. 13-8	Article III be amended to reduce the powers and duties of the County Executive and add the new entity of a County Manager.	<i>Failed (5-10)</i>	Yes
Intro. 13-9	Made changes throughout several articles of the charter to transfer powers and duties of the County Executive to the County Manager.	<i>Failed (5-10)</i>	Yes
Intro. 13-10	The Department of "Commissioner of Finance" be replaced with the "Department of Real Property Tax Services."	<u>Passed (14-1)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-11	The Commissioner of Health appoints the Director of the County Laboratory.	<u>Passed (14-1)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-12	A County Manager appoints the Commissioner of Health, members of the Board of Health, and Members of the Health Advisory Board.	<i>Failed (5-10)</i>	Yes

Intro. 13-13	Adding “Forestry” to the title of the Department of Parks and Recreation.	<u>Passed (14-1)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-14	Eliminate maintenance of ECMC’s grounds, because of ECMC’s status as an autonomous institution, from the purview of the Commissioner of Public Works.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-15	The County implement the “Blueprint for Change”	<i>Failed (6-9)</i>	Yes
Intro. 13-16	Division of Youth Detention be moved to the Department of Social Services.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-17	Creation of the Department of Public Safety	<i>Failed (6-9)</i>	Yes
Intro. 13-18	Acknowledges the role of a County Manager in County Government. Authorizes the Comptroller to have the authority to review revenue projections, to report on the suitability of those projections to the Legislature and to authorize the Legislature to reduce revenue projections by 2/3 majority vote. Authorize the Comptroller to have sole custody over all County accounts. Authorizes the Comptroller to provide all accounting services to county departments as part of a centralized accounting system. The revenue recovery function be given to the Comptroller and removed from the County Executive.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-19	Moving County Laboratory under the Department of Health.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-20	Elimination of obsolete language regarding the Erie County Technical Institute.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-21	Implementation of a uniform set of standards relating to the make-up of advisory boards.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-22	The County Manager shall have the authority to appoint the heads of county administrative units.	<i>Failed (5-10)</i>	Yes
Intro. 13-23	References to the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library be deleted and moved to a section relating to autonomous County institutions.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-24	Reference to Erie Community College be deleted and moved to a section relating to autonomous County institutions.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes

Intro. 13-25	Elimination of the Erie County Citizens Committee on Rape and Sexual Assault, which is now a dormant Committee, as they voted to cease their operations, which are now being conducted by another organization.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-26	Elimination of the Art and Culture in Public places board; a board that has never met, or functioned, and is now dormant.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-27	Elimination of the Narcotics Control Board Which is now dormant and non-functioning.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-28	Create a statement of intent to insure that the principles of transparency, programmatic budgeting, quantification and cost accounting are reflected in future county budgets.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-29	Addition of a "Revenue Projections Reviewed" section of the charter that includes authorizing the Comptroller to review revenue projections and large expense estimates to determine their suitability. that Legislature will be authorized to reduce revenue projections by a 2/3 vote or increase expense estimates by a majority vote.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-30	Each individual line item proposed in an amendment to the budget offered less than 48 hours must be voted upon separately by the Legislature.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-31	Deletion of obsolete Article XVIII, Section 1803G which was created specifically for the 1984 budget.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-32	Deletion of language from Article XVIII, Section 1804 relating to the Legislature establishing a reserve amount for uncollected taxes because of the Legislature's inability to make this determination.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-33	Change in the dates administrative units submit their budgets from September 15 th to August 15 th and requires that all information used to develop revenue estimates be submitted to the Comptroller by October 1 st .	<u>Passed 15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-34	Authorized independently elected officials to submit their budgets to the executive branch for consultation but not alteration without the consent of the independently elected official by September 15 th in each year.	<i>Failed (2-13)</i>	No

Intro. 13-35	Include a statement of intent emphasizing that a balanced budget is essential to the fiscal integrity of Erie County and authorizes the Comptroller to declare a deficit. Authorizes the County Executive to make budget transfers, up to \$10,000, from one administrative unit to another. These transfers will be reported to the Legislature on a monthly basis.	<u>Passed(15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-36	Deletion of language referring to ECMC and the Erie County Home, since these entities are now part of a public benefit corporation organized under New York State Law.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-37	Removal of the Citizen's Budget Review Board.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-38	Changes the date administrative units submit their budgets and authorizes independently elected officials to submit their budgets to the executive branch for consultation but not alteration without the consent of the independently elected official by September 15 th , incorporating Intro 13-34.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-39	Changes the date for the submittal of capital projects and amends the administrative code to prohibit the use of bond capital for salaries, utilities, supplies, or other recurring expenses unless authorized by New York State. Also requires that a proper fund balance be maintained in the adopted budget.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-40	Authorizes independently elected officials to manage their approved budgets throughout the fiscal year and authorizes the Legislature by simple majority vote to take corrective action in the event of a deficit.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-41	Prohibit county officers or employees from knowingly soliciting a contribution or campaign work from a person doing business with the county or a subordinate employee. Failed to prohibit union contributions.	<i>Failed (4-11)</i>	No
Intro. 13-42	Creation of an Office of Public Advocacy.	<u>Passed (12-3)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-43	Creation of an "Autonomous Institutions" section of the charter. ECC is identified as a component of SUNY. ECMC is recognized as a public benefit corporation. The Buffalo and Erie county Public Libraries are recognized as a corporation	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes

chartered pursuant to NYS Board of Regents.
All are placed in this section of the charter.

Intro. 13-44	Support of Gender Neutral terminology in the charter.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-45	The Erie County Charter undergo a mandatory decennial review.	<u>Passed (12-3)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-46	Charter be amended to make the Directors of the Divisions of Purchasing, Budget and Management and Information and Support Services subject to the confirmation of the Legislature.	<u>Passed (15-0)</u>	Yes
Intro. 13-47	Creates a new department named the Division of Labor, as a stand alone Department of Government. The Commissioner of Labor shall be appointed by the County Executive.	<u>Passed (9-6)</u>	No